

READING

The Beatles Biography

1 The Beatles are the greatest popular group of all-time. In July of 1957, in Liverpool, Paul McCartney met John Lennon and joined his group, *The Quarrymen*. George Harrison joined them in February of 1958. In 1959 they played regular gigs at a club called The Casbah. They were joined by vocalist Stuart Sutcliffe, and by drummer Peter Best, whose mother owned The Casbah club. John
5 Lennon dreamed up the band's final name, The Beatles, a mix of beat with beetle.

In 1960 The Beatles toured in Hamburg, Germany. Brian Epstein, their manager, made them wear suits and ties, classic shoes, and newer haircuts. They were advised to update their manners on stage and quit eating and drinking in public. On June 6, 1962, being asked by John Lennon, Paul McCartney, and George Harrison, Epstein fired Pete Best. After a mutual decision the band was completed with the
10 session drummer, named Ringo Starr.

In September of 1962 The Beatles recorded their first hit *Love Me Do*, which charted in UK (United Kingdom), and reached the top of the US (United States) singles chart in 1964. Their creative search covered a range of styles from jazz and rock to a cosmopolitan cross-cultural and cross-genre compositions.

15 In the course of their career every member became a multi-instrumentalist. The Beatles were the first popular band that used a classical touch of strings and keyboard instruments. Their 1963 performance at the London Palladium made them famous in Great Britain and initiated the *Beatlemania* in the UK. After that The Beatles endured several years of extremely intensive recording, filming, and touring. They stopped public performances after 1966, but continued their recording contracts.

20 On June 25, 1967, The Beatles made history becoming the first band globally transmitted on TV to an estimated 400 million people worldwide.

By 1985 The Beatles had sold over one billion records. Music became their ticket to ride around the world. The Beatles created over 240 songs, they recorded many singles and albums, made films and TV shows. *Yesterday* is considered the most-covered song in history with over three thousand versions of
25 it recorded by various artists.

Beatlemania never really ended since its initiation. It still lives as a movable feast in many hearts and minds, as a sweet memory of youth, when all you need is love and a little help from a friend to be happy.

Available in: <<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm1397313/bio>> . Accessed in 26th May, 2010. Adapted.

1 - Take a look at the text again. Look up at the dictionary all the words you couldn't get the meaning. Write them and their meanings in the chart below.

1- Who did choose the name of the band?

2- When did Ringo Starr start playing with the Beatles?

3- What was their first hit?

4- What was the event that initiated the *Beatlemania*?

5- Mark true (T) or false (F).

- a) () They chose the name The Beatles because it's a name of a club in London.
- b) () Brian Epstein decided to fire Pete Best.
- c) () They stopped doing concerts after 1966.
- d) () The Beatles was the first band globally transmitted on TV.
- e) () The Beatles didn't do any movies together.

6- What are the names of the four Beatles?

- a) Paul, John, George and Pete.
- b) Paul, John, Ringo and Stuart.
- c) Paul, John, George and Ringo.
- d) Paul, John Pete, and Stuart.